

Mayor of Cincinnati – Swearing – In Ceremony

Cincinnati Museum Center at the Union Terminal

December 1, 2005, 5:30 P.M.

Good Evening Cincinnati.

I want to thank everyone for joining me here at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal this evening to share this momentous occasion.

I want to start by thanking the people of Cincinnati for placing their trust in me to be their Mayor. I am deeply honored and humbled at having the opportunity to represent you as the mayor for the next four years. I will work hard to make you proud.

I would like to thank Douglass McDonald, Melita Ellington, and the entire staff of the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal.

As well as, Chief Striecher and the Cincinnati Police Department Honor Guard.

And, Simon Leis and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department Bagpipe and Drum Corps.

I also want to thank my staff.

And, I want to thank the countless volunteers who devoted so much of their time to our efforts to bring change to the city. I would not be here today without them.

I would also like to thank a couple of individuals who stuck their necks out by supporting me for Mayor.

Former Mayor Roxanne Qualls, who endorsed me at my announcement event a year and a half ago.

Former Senate Presidents, Stan Aronoff (who could not be here today) and Dick Finan.

And my colleagues in the legislature from around the county. They had the courage to cross party lines to support me.

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful family for their support and sacrifice throughout the exhausting campaign. My entire family has been dedicated to public service, and they serve as my inspiration for all that I do.

Our city is named after the Society of the Cincinnati, a fellowship organization for Army officers, whose top priority was to take care of the members of the society and their families.

The society's motto is "He abandons everything to serve his country." It is fitting that our great city is named after an organization that is founded on the ideals of taking care of each other and selfless service to the city.

I believe that these founding principles should serve as the basis for how we should conduct our everyday lives.

Over the last year, as I have talked to people in every neighborhood throughout our city the common thread was that people felt that our city could do better. They felt that we needed to turn Cincinnati around and move in a new direction.

However, I was always impressed by the sense of hope that exists in every corner of the city. I am here, today, to report to you that there is hope and confidence in our city that we can overcome the challenges that we face and transform Cincinnati for the better.

The fantastic thing about living in a democracy is that citizens are able to let their opinions be heard and change composition of their government.

Elections are an excellent opportunity to start fresh and set a new course for our city. On Election Day, the citizens of Cincinnati called for a change in the way that business is done in our city.

The votes of the citizens selected four new City Council Members and elected me the first Mayor not to come from Council since the 1930s.

The Citizens recognized that the need for change and the entrusted us with a unique opportunity to start fresh, to turn away from our past and chart a course for a new future.

This is a great city. This is a city of 52 vibrant, active neighborhoods. This is a city of proud and civic-minded people.

The challenge is on us the citizens of Cincinnati to seize this unique moment in time and recommit ourselves to the founding principles of our city: taking care of each other and selfless service to the city.

We have the power and ability to create the change that we all know our city needs.

We must embrace the notion that we are all part of the same brotherhood; a brotherhood based on our common experience as Cincinnatians.

We are all in this together. The problems that face our city affect us all. In order to confront those problems, we need to focus on the issues that are common between us.

We share a common desire for clean and safe neighborhoods to raise our families and enjoy our lives.

We share a common desire for good schools that will provide our children with a quality education.

We share a common desire for strong economic development that will grow our city and provide opportunities for all of our fellow citizens.

We share a common desire for a healthy environment, where we feel protected from pollution and disease.

We share a common desire for good jobs with quality benefits and endless potential for advancement

And we share a common desire for a vibrant city, rich with arts and culture.

We have so much in common about what we want for our city, our families, and ourselves. All that is left is to have the common commitment to put aside our differences and work together to improve our city.

There is an enthusiasm and optimism in the community; a sense that the time is right for a major change. We are about to turn a corner and once again move our city forward.

In the next few years, we have the opportunity to transform Cincinnati and begin the type of progress that will once again make Cincinnati a city admired across the country.

We cannot passively sit and wait for this change to happen. We must control our destiny. If we truly want to see change then we must actively make that change happen.

You have taken the first step. You have elected an excellent group of talented and motivated Council Members to help us begin the path of change.

I am truly excited about the team that we have on City Council. I know that they are deeply committed to doing what is necessary to transform this city.

First, we're going to reform our house so that we can do the things the people really want us to do.

Change is sometimes difficult but it is absolutely necessary. This Administration will make decisions that are in the best interest of the common good.

I think everyone here realizes that we need to put the needs of the city above our individual needs.

There is a spirit of opportunity in this community, a spirit of hope. We have a real opportunity to make progress, and we're committed to that opportunity.

We must seize the opportunity that we have been given to make a fresh start. It is only through our hard work that we can make that change happen.

Now we must turn this positive energy and commitments into accomplishments.

But we cannot do it alone. You, the citizens of Cincinnati, are part of this team as well. If we are going to truly change our city, we need your help as well.

We can only make this city better if we work as a team, from the Mayor's Office all the way down to every last citizen. All working to move the city forward.

So, I want to make a challenge to you. My challenge is to get involved and be an ambassador to the city.

Being an ambassador means becoming involved in your community.

It means being vigilant about fighting crime.

It means promoting the city to the world.

I need everyone in the city to take pride in our city. Everyone must focus on solutions rather than problems. Everyone should consider the needs of the city and know that each and everyone of us are part of making this city great.

We are on the verge of a great turn around in the City. By working together as a team, Mayor to Council to the city departments to the neighborhoods, we can create the type of change and improvement that we all know that Cincinnati is ready for.

Now, I would like to recognize our next City Council.

Vice Mayor Jim Tarbell
Jeff Berding

Chris Bortz
Laketa Cole
John Cranley
David Crowley
Leslie Ghiz
Chris Monzel
Cecil Thomas

This is the leadership team that you have entrusted to run help me run our city. You have given us a clear direction. We must turn our city around.

The common element that unites all of the Council Members is that we love our city and we want very badly to make it better.

You are looking at the future of the City of Cincinnati. I am completely confident that this team will work hard to do great things for all of us in the city of Cincinnati.

I ask you to commit yourself to also working hard. Together, I know that Cincinnati will live up to its amazing potential and become the city that our country looks up to once again.

I want to thank you all for coming. Good night and God Bless Our City.